

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, ECON, EAGR, IR

SUBJ: ROMANOV BEARS DOWN ON LENINGRAD AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

REF: MOSCOW 14091

1. SUMMARY. POLITBURO MEMBER AND FIRST SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD OBLAST G.V. ROMANOV USED OCCASION OF RECENT SPEECH TO FARM SECTOR PARTY ACTIVISTS TO RE-EMPHASIZE MAIN POINTS OF SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV'S SEPT. 3 ALMA-ATA SPEECH, WHILE REMINDING LENINGRAD AGRICULTURALISTS THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE TO DATE HAS NOT BEEN UP TO NATIONAL LEVEL. IN CONTRAST TO GENERALLY POSITIVE DESCRIPTION WHICH BREZHNEV GAVE TO THIS YEAR'S OVERALL HARVEST, ROMANOV AGAIN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MAJOR WEAK POINT OF LENINGRAD REGIONAL ECONOMY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SEPT. 14 ADDRESS TO MEETING OF PARTY FARM ACTIVISTS OF LENINGRAD OBLAST AT SMOLNYY, POLITBURO MEMBER AND FIRST SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD OBKOM, G.V. ROMANOV, REITERATED GENERAL POINTS OF BREZHNEV'S SEPT. 3 SPEECH IN ALMA-ATA AND RELATED IT TO SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF LENINGRAD OBLAST. ROMANOV'S SPEECH WAS OF STANDARD
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"ODNAKO" VARIETY, NOTING THAT WHILE LENINGRAD ECONOMY IS PRO-

DUCING STRONGLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (5 PERCENT ABOVE COMMITMENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR), THERE ARE TENACIOUS WEAKNESSES IN MOST SECTORS WHICH WILL REQUIRE CONTINUING CLOSE ATTENTION OF PARTY AUTHORITIES AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS AT ALL LEVELS IF PLAN GOALS ARE TO BE MET AND EXCEEDED. MAIN POINT, HE EMPHASIZED, IS HOW WELL PARTY AND ENTERPRISES ORGANIZE AND COORDINATE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION, TRAINING PROGRAMS AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS TO ASSURE FULFILLMENT OF SET GOALS. INDUSTRIAL SECTORS WHICH CAME IN FOR HEAVIEST BRICKBATS WERE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CHRONIC SOURCE OF DISSATISFACTION HERE, AND TRAINING SCHOOLS, WHICH SEEM TO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING THEIR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

3. MAJOR CRITICISM, HOWEVER, WAS RESERVED FOR AGRICULTURAL AREA, INCLUDING INDUSTRIES PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. WHILE PROUD THAT BREZHNEV IN ALMA-ATA SPEECH HAD SELECTED LENINGRAD-PRODUCED "KIROVETS" TRACTOR AS PRIME EXAMPLE OF PRODUCT MEETING CONTEMPORARY REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURE, ROMANOV NOTED EXISTENCE OF CONTINUING WEAKNESSES IN PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, IN COMPONENT SUPPLIES TO INDUSTRY, AND IN SPARE PARTS PRODUCTION. HE AGAIN TOOK "FOSFORIT" FERTILIZER PLANT TO TASK FOR FAILURE TO MEET PLANNED OUTPUT BY "THOUSANDS OF TONS", NOTING CONSEQUENCES FOR COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURE, AND LAYING THE BLAME FOR FAILURE TO GET NEW UNITS INTO PRODUCTION ON ARCHITECT, BUILDER, AND LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS ALIKE.

4. LIKE BREZHNEV, ROMANOV ADMITTED WEAKNESSES IN MEAT PRODUCTION, CALLING FOR MORE SCIENTIFIC AND MECHANIZED METHODS OF LIVESTOCK RAISING AND IMPROVED METHODS IN CATTLE BREEDING. HE ALSO SCORED FAILURE TO CREATE ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN LENINGRAD FOR SELLING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY VEGETABLES, AND SAID THIS MATTER WILL REQUIRE RENEWED EFFORTS OF LENINGRAD CITY COUNCIL.

5. COMMENT: THERE WAS LITTLE IN ROMANOV'S SPEECH WHICH HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN ADUMBRATED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER IN PAST WEEKS IN LENINGRAD MEDIA, WHICH HAS SHOWN INCREASING FRUSTRATIONS WITH LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS. SPEECH, HOWEVER, WAS NOTEWORTHY AS ADEPT USE OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECH TO RELATE LOCAL PROBLEMS TO NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE. IT ALSO STRUCK US AS OVERLY EFFUSIVE IN ITS CHARACTERIZATION OF ALMA-ATA SPEECH WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CLEARLY AND DEEPLY ARGUED" TALK WHICH CALLED FORTH "TREMENDOUS INTEREST, UNANIMOUS SUPPORT AND COMPLETE APPROVAL" OF LENINGRAD WORKERS. WHILE MAKING HIS POINTS LOCALLY, ROMANOV CLEARLY HAS HIS EYE

ON THE NATIONAL SCENE AND UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED TO SCORE FEW POINTS IN MOSCOW AS WELL.
NEUBERT

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